

TERM DATES 2024 – 2025



Summer Holidays 2025:

Break up: Fri 18th July at 2:30pm

Mon 21st and Tues 22nd July are non-pupil days

TERM DATES 2025 – 2026

September 2025:

Return on: Weds 3rd Sept

Mon 1st is a non-pupil day

Tues 2nd is a non-pupil day



October Half Term 2025:

Break up: Fri 24th October

Return on: Mon 3rd November

Christmas Holidays 2025-26

Break up: Fri 19th December at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 5th January

February Half Term 2026:

Break up: Fri 13th February

Return on: Mon 23rd February

Easter Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 27th March at 2.30pm

Return on: Mon 13th April

Friday 1st May is a non-pupil day

Monday 4th May is a Bank Holiday

May Half Term 2026:

Break up: Thurs 21st May

Fri 22nd May is a non-pupil day

Return on: Mon 1st June

Summer Holidays 2026:

Break up: Fri 17th July at 2.30 pm

Mon 20th July is a non-pupil day

Forthcoming Events:

20th June - Reception class to Highwoods Country Park

24th June - Year 4 to West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

2nd July - Sports Day

4th July - Year 6 Deanery Day (further details to follow)

11th July - Year 1 trip to Walton Beach

17th July - Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 6.00pm

**Last day of this academic year
Early Finish
at 2.30pm
on Friday 18th July**

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

We began the week thinking about Bible story of Jesus and Peter walking on water. We wondered about faith and trust- Peter was a fisherman he knew the true reality of attempting to walk on water- he could drown- but he put his faith and trust in Jesus. We noticed when Peter looked away from Jesus he began to sink and we thought about this in our own lives- keeping our focus on Jesus in all that we do this week in school.



I thought the theme of walking on water was apt given the flood the school experienced over half-term, I was able to regale the tale to the children with photos, including my 6:30am phone call from Mr Price and the heroic efforts of the staff team that responded to my SOS. I told the children that even in the darkest of situations we can see Jesus and feel His love- this was just such an example.

Father Riq launched a flood appeal for us during half term and parishioners and parents have continued to contribute. We're blown away by the generosity within the community- the £865 raised is going to be very helpful in the next few weeks whilst we await our insurance claim. We see Jesus and his love in every donation- thank you!

It's been a delight to welcome the children back after the half-term break; we really do have a rich half term ahead of us to look forward to. Key dates are posted just to the left- do have a look and pop things in your diary.

Year 6 have had an especially busy week so my highlight this week is on them, including the start of secondary transition activities- this started with a financial education day on Monday, Wednesday they were off to the West end of London for what has been described as a 'phenomenal' theatre trip to see Matilda and Thursday they took part in Crucial Crew- an initiative for all year 6's across Colchester linked to transition. What a week Year 6!

Year 2 also enjoyed a trip to Layer Marney Tower and Ms Garton told me they were a 'joy' throughout.

We have continued hosting open days and evening tours to prospective parents of Little Flowers nursery class or for Reception 25-26 places. It has been wonderful to hear often that the parent community is spreading the word to family and friends. The nursery is coming up to half full, which is fantastic and we do still have those couple of spaces in Reception. Do spread the word and share, we are an inclusive school for children of Catholic faith or none.

There is further information in the next few pages including information about swimming and staffing for next academic year- I know you'll be keen to read so do read on. Please continue supporting FOST FEST with donations including donating your time to man a stall. Please do all vote for a teacher to be iced but don't vote for me!

If it turns out to be a soggy weekend do encourage your child to take part in the art competition we launched (details repeated below). I've had some wonderful entries but we still have plenty of frames to fill.

God Bless- Mrs Maguire



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex. CO3 9BE

Tel: 01206 508445

Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Maguire M.A. NPQH



June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I'm writing to share the planned staffing arrangements for our school for the next academic year, which take into account the exciting developments taking place across St Teresa's - including the introduction of our new nursery class.

We're pleased to confirm the following teaching arrangements for September 2025:

Nursery	Miss L East
Reception	Miss G Hilton
Year 1	Mrs L Gill
Year 2	Ms. R Congdon and Miss D Gooneratne (job share)
Year 3	Mrs S Heath
Year 4	Mr N Rees (newly qualified teacher)
Year 5	Mrs J Herron
Year 6	Mrs L Lewis

Ms. J Garton is not listed with a class next year as she will be taking maternity leave in the autumn term. While she is still with us, she will continue to support the school by covering PPA (the teacher's statutory Planning, Preparation and Assessment time).

Each year we take time to review our staffing to ensure we place colleagues where their skills and experience can make the greatest difference. This year, the launch of the nursery has allowed us to consider our whole school structure, creating a balanced and thoughtful approach from Nursery through to Year 6.

The nursery will be led by an experienced early years teacher and supported by a small, skilled team - a wonderful opportunity for our youngest learners. Meanwhile, our wider staffing plan ensures both continuity and a fresh sense of purpose across the school. Some staff are taking on new year groups to build on their strengths, and we're delighted to be welcoming a newly qualified teacher into Year 4.

Our brilliant support staff will continue to be placed where they can make the biggest impact. Their flexibility is a real strength and ensures every class is well supported.

We hope this early insight helps you feel confident about the year ahead. All classes will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher later this term, as we build-in time for a carefully planned and supportive transition. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and encouragement as we continue to grow and thrive together.

Your sincerely

Mrs B Maguire
Headteacher



St Teresa's School is part of The Rosary Trust a Catholic Multi Academy - Registered Number: 08068528

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment



St Teresa's Catholic Primary School

Clairmont Road, Lexden, Colchester, Essex. CO3 9BE

Tel: 01206 508445

Email: office@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Website: www.st-teresas.essex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Maguire M.A. NPQH



June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the success of last year's pop-up pool, we are delighted to share that we will once again be welcoming the Little Swimming team and their pool back to St Teresa's this summer. The pool will be delivered and set up during the week beginning 30th June, with swimming lessons beginning the following week - from Monday 7th July - and running for a two-week period.

Last year, we invited all classes to take part in swimming sessions, and the feedback we received from parents and pupils was overwhelmingly positive in terms of fun and experience. However, we also recognised that for some classes, particularly those who received just short taster sessions, the impact on swimming progress was limited. With that in mind, we've taken the decision this year to focus our swimming provision on two key year groups: Year 5 and Year 1 and Hive pupils. These pupils will benefit from a more structured and sustained block of lessons. In addition, we will be offering top-up lessons for any Year 6 pupils who are not yet meeting the expected swimming standard based on previous assessments.

A separate letter with full details will follow shortly for the families in Years 1, 5 and 6. We hope those in year groups not swimming this year will not be too disappointed. As we plan to continue this model moving forward, all pupils will have their opportunity in due course.

We are also hoping to follow up with some private hire opportunities for families, potentially after school, at weekends, and even during the summer holiday period - more details on this will be shared nearer the time.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Maguire
Headteacher



St Teresa's School is part of The Rosary Trust a Catholic Multi Academy - Registered Number: 08068528

The School is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment

Attendance Data

94% and below

94 - 97%

97% and above



	Week before ½ term %	This week %
Reception	96.67	95.67
Year 1	95.00	94.00
Year 2	98.00	99.00
Year 3	96.56	96.25
Year 4	92.19	97.81
Year 5	95.31	95.63
Year 6	97.42	93.00
Whole School total:	95.85	95.93

EVERY

SCHOOL DAY

COUNTS

Well done to Year 2 for highest attendance this week!

Certificates

Congratulations to the following recipients of certificates!



Catholic Social Teaching

Writer of the week

Doing Little Things Well

REC Katie
 Y1 Daniel
 Y2 Kunle
 Y3 Amar'e
 Y4 Henry
 Y5 Paul
 Y6 Mishel

Cara
 Emily
 Zohra
 William
 Jacque
 Nuala-Rose
 Leila (Golden Quill)

Noah
 Oliver
 Leo
 Arlo
 Sophie
 Alexandra R
 Charlie

Intellectual Curiosity

Friendship

Excellent Manners

Resilience

REC Rosie
 Y1 Jacob
 Y2 Delilah
 Y3 Alice M
 Y4 Jacquan
 Y5 Emmi
 Y6 Rowan

Harper
 Matilda
 Simisola
 Joshua
 Matilda
 Evangeline
 Archie

Gabriel
 Amelia
 Fela
 Oscar
 Erin
 Pheonix
 Nahla and Lisa

El-Nathan
 Charlotte
 Grace
 Myles
 David
 Amira
 Rowan

Teacher of the week: Mrs Maguire

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club starts at 7.30am.
 Food will be served until
8.40am.
 Children will be escorted to class
up till 8.45am
 Those signed up to UFBC- a
 reminder this is available after
8:15am ONLY.



School Meals

The dinner menus are available
 on the school website and via
 Seesaw



After School Club - 3.15 - 6pm

Places for the after school club
 must be booked via your child's
 ParentPay account.

The cost is £9 per child per
 session



Remember to check
 Seesaw and the website
 for useful information,
 letters and dates!

We are occasionally asked to promote activities/clubs etc. from
 local groups. Such activities are not quality assured by the school
 and parents should be aware of the need to reassure themselves of
 the quality and safety of the services on offer, for example by
 visiting, looking at inspection reports etc.

Catholic Social Teaching Corner



“The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” Genesis 2:15

Our Global Assembly focus this week was World Ocean Day which is actually celebrated on Sunday 8th June and was led by Mrs Heath.

We began by focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching that helps us understand why World Ocean Day is so important as how we, as stewards of the Gospel, have an important role in protecting our oceans. Mrs Heath reminded us that Sofia the Sloth is our role model for stewardship and how the following message should resonate with us all as we follow in Jesus' footsteps.

“We are guardians of God's creation, living sustainably and enhancing the wellbeing of our planet”

We explored how the oceans are being polluted and damaged by humankind and how with simple changes to our life styles and putting ocean life at the forefront of our mind we can make a difference before it is too late. Mrs Heath shared some pledges that we could make as individuals, as a school and as a community to ensure that we do 'little things' to make a big difference. Pledge ideas included: picking up litter from beaches, saying no to unnecessary packaging and plastic bags, avoiding unnecessary use of plastic such as straws and using a reusable bottle. The children reflected on how many of them use a water bottle at school and how when Year 1 go on their annual trip to the beach, they litter pick and look for microplastic to clear up. Mrs Heath reminded us that we are stewards of our Earth, just like the captain of a ship and as stewards we must take care of our oceans and the beautiful planet God has entrusted to us. It would be wonderful to encourage the children to support recycling at home (if they don't already do so) and to think about how by simply using a reusable water bottle reduces plastic in our environment.

Loving God,

We believe that the world is for everyone.

We thank you for the gift of Creation.

Help us to take care of the planet and all people who live on it.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer



Nursery - government funded childcare

We have been advised that applications are open for 30 hours of government-funded childcare for September 2025.

All eligible working parents of children who will be at least nine months old on or before 31 August can now apply for 30 hours of government-funded childcare for September 2025 through the government's childcare expansion. Parents can check their eligibility and apply at [Childcare Choices](#).

First Holy Communion

Please see below for the First Holy Communion programme 2024/5

Sessions - 9.15am - 10.45 am St. Teresa's school (pick up from the church)

First Holy Communion rehearsal

Wednesday 18^h June 2025

6.00pm - Group 1

7.00pm - Group 2

June 21st 2025 - First Holy Communion services at 11am and 2pm

Going Forth Mass - June 29th 2025 at 9.00am



Flood Donations

We are so very grateful to the many of you who have asked if you can give a monetary donation to support the school following the flood experienced during the half term holiday. Your kind words and offers of help are truly appreciated by everyone at the school.

We do have insurance so please don't feel in anyway obliged to donate, however if you would like to assist, we have set up an item on ParentPay which allows you to make a donation to the school.

For larger donation amounts, you may like to contact the Friends of St Teresa's on FOST@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk as they will be able provide their bank details to you along with a form to claim Gift Aid.

Once again, our heartfelt thanks to you all - your continued support and prayers have made this difficult time more bearable.

CLASS MASSES

Father Riq has confirmed his availability to celebrate the following class masses/services:

Year 5 - 24th June @ 11:00am

Year 3 - 25th June @ 11:00am

Year 4 - 1st July @ 11:00am

Reception - 8th July @ 2:30pm

Year 1 /2 - 9th July @ 11:00am

You are warmly invited to join us in the church to celebrate our class masses.



St. Teresa's Art Competition
Theme – Joy
Calling all budding artists!

I would like to refresh the artwork on display in the corridor near my office – and I would love your help to do it!

You are invited to take part in a special art competition. Your task is to create a piece of artwork on the theme of 'Joy'. This could be a drawing, painting, or a mixed media piece – it's up to you!

Here's what you need to know:

- ✗ Your artwork must be A4 or A3 in size.
- ✗ Every picture must have a title.
- ✗ The closing date for entries is Monday 9th June.
- ✗ All entries will be displayed in school and each one will receive a certificate.
- ✗ A selection of winning pieces will be chosen to go on permanent display in the corridor.
- ✗ One grand winner will also receive a special gift voucher prize!
- ✗ Please deliver your finished artwork to the Headteacher's office.
- ✗ Don't forget to put your name and year group on the back of your picture!

We can't wait to see your creativity and the joy you'll bring to our walls!

Best of luck and happy creating,

Mrs Maguire
Headteacher

National Smile Month

The Community Dental Team are running a competition to coincide with National Smile Month to highlight the importance of good oral health. Anyone aged 6 to 11 years can enter a short story or poem (full details below).

Please note that the winner will be expected to take part in a certain amount of publicity which will include their name and image being used online, in publications and on TV and radio.

The closing date for entries is 5pm on 12th June 2025.

National Smile Month Story / Poem Competition	National Smile Month Story / Poem Competition
<p>Celebrate with us this National Smile Month, 12th May – 12th June 2025 and help raise awareness of the importance of good oral health.</p>	<h3>RULES OF ENTRY</h3>
<p>We are asking children aged between 6 to 11 across Lincolnshire, Essex, Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Slough, Norfolk and Waveney and Oxfordshire, to write a short story or poem (up to 400 words) promoting the importance of looking after our teeth. Whether it's about brushing, eating tooth friendly foods and drinks, the tooth fairy - it is entirely up to you, as long as it is about teeth!</p>	<p>CDS's National Smile Month Story/Poem Competition is open to residents aged between 6 and 11 years on the closing date of 12th June 2025. We welcome entries from children of all abilities and needs.</p>
 <p>Enter for a chance to win!</p> <p>The winner will have their story or poem turned into a video with their voiceover, plus receive an electric toothbrush and a book voucher.</p>	<p>To enter the competition, entrants must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Write a short story or poem (up to 400 words) that can be anything about teeth.2. Ideas must be the entrant's own work.3. Have parent / guardian's permission to enter the competition.4. Entries must be received by 5pm on Thursday 12th June 2025.5. Late entries will not be included.6. Only one entry per person to be submitted. If multiples are received, we will accept the first and disregard others.7. Winner will be announced on our social media channels and contacted on 1st July 2025 to arrange a convenient date for CDS to record them reading their entry.8. If CDS is unable to contact the winner after a reasonable number of attempts have been made, we reserve the right to offer the prize to the next best entry.9. The prize is as stated and cannot be transferred. There is no cash alternative.10. Winner will be expected to take part in post-competition publicity for CDS. The winner's name and image may be used on the internet, in publications, on TV and Radio, along with a copy of their winning entry.11. The parent / guardian of an entrant is deemed to have accepted these rules when giving permission to the entrant to submit their entry.
<p>Please send your entries in by 5pm 12th June 2025 via email at oralhealthimprovement@cds-cic.nhs.uk</p> <p>Please ensure you provide the child's name, their school, county and parents'/guardians contact details on the back of the submission or in the email.</p> <p>Winner will be announced on 1st July 2025.</p>	<p>Any questions please contact the OHI team on: oralhealthimprovement@cds-cic.nhs.uk</p>
<p><i>The winner will be expected to take part in post-competition publicity for CDS. This may mean their name and image being used on the internet, in publications, on TV and Radio, along with an image/video of their winning entry.</i></p> <p><small>(©)Community Dental Services CIC, 2025</small></p>	<p><small>(©)Community Dental Services CIC, 2025</small></p>

Pastoral Focus

With the summer approaching, Essex Safeguarding Children Board are highlighting their 'Wise Up To Water Safety' campaign.

Whether we are running a bath, near ponds and lakes, setting up paddling pools or spending time on the beach, their key message is:

Never Leave Children Unattended Around Water

More information about keeping safe near water is available on the ESCB website at: escb.co.uk/about/campaigns/water-safety



Wise up to water safety

WALK #splashesafely

Walk the boundaries
Make sure you have fences around any water area in your garden

Avoid tripping hazards
Keep any water area in your garden tidy and safe from toddling feet

Learn to swim
It's never too early to enrol children in swimming lessons

Keep watching
Children should always be supervised around water

  

ICE THE TEACHERS!

Visit ParentPay to vote for the teacher you would like to be 'iced' at the end of FOST FEST. We will give you a weekly update on who is currently in the 'ice pole position'. Remember you can vote by donating £1 and you can vote as many times as you wish.

You can vote to ice ...

Mrs Maguire

Miss East

Ms Shergold

Mrs Hale

Mrs Herron

Miss Hilton

Mr Rees

Miss Gooneratne

Mr Smith

Mrs Lewis

FOST FEST 2025

ST TERESA'S SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH

3:15PM – 7:00PM

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of fun, laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories!

Event Highlights

**BBQ
ICE CREAMS
RAFFLE
TOMBOLAS
BAR**

**GAMES
INFLATABLES
LIVE MUSIC
ACTIVITIES
DISPLAYS**

Included in entry price

ticketed entry

Adults £4
School Age Children £6
Pre-Schoolers Free

SAVE THE DATE

Tickets available on ParentPay now!



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number: 1206040

FRIDAY, JUNE 20TH
3:30PM - 7:30PM

ticketed entry

Adults £4
School Age Children £6
Pre-Schoolers
Free

FOST FEST 2025

ST TERESA'S SCHOOL

Sponsored by 
Jackson & Co

WE NEED YOU

To make this event a success, we need your help!
We're looking for volunteers to assist with ...

SETTING UP, RUNNING STALLS OR CLEARING UP ON THE DAY

PRIZES, SPONSORSHIP OR MATCH FUNDING FROM YOU OR YOUR WORKPLACE

**WHETHER YOU CAN SPARE AN HOUR OR
THE WHOLE DAY, YOUR SUPPORT
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

If you can help,
please complete
the form
[here](#)



FRIENDS OF ST TERESA'S, COLCHESTER Charity Number:1206040

Tickets available on ParentPay now!

FREE

ESSEX ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY



ESSEX ROCKS!

Geology and Fossil Fun for ALL the Family

on
SATURDAY 12TH JULY

10am - 4pm

at

Tollgate Hall, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0RH

Fizzing Rocks

Touch a Mammoth

Sift Sand

Sales of rocks, minerals & fossils



ACL

FREE!

SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY TRANSITIONS (Year 6)

Preparing for the transition to secondary school can be both exciting and challenging for families and children in Yr 6. Our 2-hour sessions are designed to help families navigate this important milestone with confidence and ease. By the end of this session, families will be equipped with the tools and knowledge to ensure a smooth and successful transition to secondary school.

16/06/2025

1900 - 2100

Online

or

03/07/2025

1900 - 2100

Online

Sign up today and make a positive impact on your child's life!

Visit our website acessex.com and type '**successful secondary**' in to the 'Find a course...' box

**COMMUNITY &
FAMILY LEARNING**



Essex County Council



Colchester Royal Grammar School

Compassion - Respect - Generosity - Support

11+ Open Evening

Tuesday 24th June

6.30pm - 9pm

Day school for boys ages 11-18 years
with a co-ed Sixth Form and Boarding

THE
GOOD
SCHOOLS
GUIDE

Limited parking at rear of school

No booking required

THE SUNDAY TIMES
SCHOOLS
GUIDE
2021
EAST ANGLIA
STATE
SECONDARY
SCHOOL
OF THE DECADE

6 Lexden Road, Colchester, CO3 3ND crgs.co.uk 01206 509 100